

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Claims

Currently, claims 1-36 are pending in the application with claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 15, 16, and 25 being the independent claims. Claims 4, 12, and 18 have been amended, and new claims 33-36 have been added. Claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice to their pursuit in an appropriate continuation or divisional application.

II. Status of the Claims

The amendment to claim 18 is primarily stylistic. Support for the amendments to claims 4, 12, and 18 and for new claims 33-36 can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, particularly on pages 8-16 and 20-27, and throughout the concurrently filed Preliminary Amendment, particularly in Example 7. Additional support for the amendments to claims 4 and 12 can be found on pages 8-16, and 18-20 and in the Examples, including Example 7. Additional support for the amendments to claim 18 and for new claims 33 and 36 can be found, e.g., on pages 8, 12-13, 14, 16, and 20 and in the Examples, including Example 7. Additional support for new claims 34 and 35 can be found, e.g., on pages 8-9, 12, 14-15, and 16-20, and in the Examples.

III. Conclusion

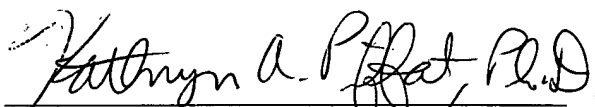
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is respectfully considered in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that all outstanding rejections have been addressed by this submission and that all the claims are in condition for allowance. If discussion of any amendment or remark made herein would advance this important case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned as soon as convenient.

It is believed that no extension of time is required. If an extension of time is required, Applicants hereby request the Examiner to consider this a conditional petition for an extension of time. Although it is not believed that any additional fee (in addition to the fee concurrently submitted) is required to consider this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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